



FACTS

about
Connecticut
Women

Connecticut General Assembly

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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Support Bill 153, AAC the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons

Between 600,000 and 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year.¹ An estimated 80% of the victims are female and up to 50% are children.² Several hundred thousands of these women and children are used in forced prostitution each year.³ Since January 2001, the Department of Justice has opened over 400 investigations and prosecuted 215 traffickers.⁴

Support Bill 153. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, this bill:

- Enacts a state-level anti-trafficking statute.
- Provides a contingency fund to assist victims.
- Provides funding for the development of a training program for law enforcement and social service providers.
- Continues the Task Force to work further on integrating services to victims.

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking has been defined in S.A. 04-8, An Act Establishing an Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, as:

... all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

¹ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*, Publication 11252, June 2005, p. 6.

² Ibid, p. 19.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Department of Justice. "Garment Factory Owner Sentenced to 40 Years For Human Trafficking," 6.23.05

Human trafficking is organized crime that enslaves its victims.

- Many victims are forced into prostitution.
- Some victims are forced to work in massage parlors and strip clubs, "fronts" for illegal activities.
- Victims are also forced to work in brothels, hidden in otherwise benign residential neighborhoods.
- Some victims are forced into domestic or other labor under illegal conditions.

Trafficking in Connecticut

The federal government has recognized that the United States is a "destination country" for traffickers. Connecticut possesses many attributes that make it a profitable location for traffickers.

- Two interstate highways running between Boston and New York City, both prime locations for trafficking.
- An international airport.
- Three marine ports on Long Island Sound.

Human trafficking causes real consequences for the community.

- Child exploitation.
- Public health problems.
- Depressed wages.⁵

S.B. 153 Criminalizes Human Trafficking in Connecticut.

Currently, there is no state statute specifically defining and criminalizing human trafficking. There are federal anti-trafficking laws that can be utilized for federal prosecution as well as state laws that criminalize various activities related to trafficking. However, a state statute will enable Connecticut law enforcement and victim services groups to better identify and respond to a type of crime that by its nature is organized, secretive, and of an ongoing nature.

Empower Connecticut law enforcement and victims. Please support S.B. 153.

⁵ Ibid.